

VISUAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This is a visual guide for Jack and the Beanstalk at the Carriageworks Theatre.

You might find this guide helpful if you're nervous about your trip to the theatre, if you are living with dementia, if you have a sensory processing difference, or if you've never been to see a theatre show before.

WHAT IS A PANTOMIME?

A pantomime is a traditional British theatre show with singing, dancing, and jokes, often based on fairy tales. It is especially popular during the Christmas season and they are known for their exaggerated characters, slapstick comedy, audience participation, and a strong emphasis on family-friendly fun.

Key features of pantomimes include:

- **Stereotypical characters:** The main characters are often based on traditional fairy tale figures, such as the hero, heroine, villain, the silly sidekick, and the dame (a comic female character played by a male actor).
- **Music and song:** Pantomimes are filled with catchy songs and a variety of musical styles.
- **Audience participation:** The audience is actively encouraged to shout out responses, boo the villain, and cheer for the hero.
- **Slapstick comedy:** Physical humour and exaggerated actions are common in pantomimes.
- **Happy ending:** Pantomimes always have a cheerful ending, where good triumphs over evil.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

This year's pantomime is based on the popular tale of **Jack and the Beanstalk**; you may have read the story, or seen an adaptation. Pantomime stories tend to take liberties with their source material, veering away from the original fairy tales or folklores they are based on. This ensures that the performances remain fresh, relevant, and enjoyable for audiences of all ages!

"Jack, the daughter of Dame Trott and sister to the ever-lovable Simon Trott, takes centre stage when the family faces hard times. It's up to her to take a chance on a handful of mysterious beans… and discover a world high above the clouds where danger, dazzling surprises and a very grumpy giant await."



AT THE THEATRE

A theatre is a building or space where performances are held. At the Carriageworks Theatre, the auditorium seats about 350 people on tiered seating across three levels, and there is a stage where the performances take place.

The main entrance to the theatre is situated on Millennium Square within The Electric Press building. You will find our ticket office, Leeds Ticket Hub, here on the ground floor.

Access

Lift access is available to all levels. There are male and female toilets available on levels 2 and 3 and accessible unisex toilets with baby changing facilities are available on all levels.

Refreshments

The bars are on levels 1 and 2 and will both open an hour before the performance is due to start, they then re-open at the interval. Tap water is free and available from either bar at any point before the performance or during the interval.

For more information about what to expect when you arrive, please visit our website





THE PERFORMANCE

When it is time for the pantomime to start, there will be an announcement to let you know you can go and find your seats. You will have seats assigned to you, and your seat number and level will be on your ticket. One of our staff will be able to help you find where you need to sit; they will be wearing navy blue t-shirts with a small, yellow Leeds City Council logo embroidered on the chest.

You may need to wait a little while other people find their seats. This might mean moving around to let people pass by. You may feel excited or impatient, but everyone will settle down once the performance begins. This will be your seat for the whole of the performance.

On the stage is something called a set, which helps the performers pretend to be in the story. Jack and the Beanstalk has multiple sets, which include the village, the Trott family farm, and the Giant's castle. The backgrounds for the sets are lowered onto the stage, and set up by the crew in between scenes.





WHAT TO EXPECT

Jack and the Beanstalk lasts for approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes. There will be a 20-minute interval around 1 hour and 10 minutes into the performance. Act two lasts about 1 hour and includes the audience shout-outs and a finale song.

If you need to get up and leave your seat to take a break or use the toilet you can do that whenever you want, just remember to be mindful of those around you.

There is a quiet space in the corner of the level 1 bar should you need it. Or, if you'd prefer to be away from crowds completely, a room can be made available for you, just ask a member of staff.



When the pantomime is about to start, the room will get a little darker and the stage will get a bit brighter. This helps you to see the performers better.

It is important to be quiet in the theatre so everyone can hear the performers. You might hear other people make noise sometimes, and that's okay. Sometimes the performers will even ask you to answer a question or make a noise. It's fun to join in, but you don't have to if you don't want to.

THE CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

The Spirit of Cloudland

The Spirit of cloudland is magical, and she helps Jack throughout the show. She mostly appears in one corner of the stage, and speaks in rhyme. The Fairy wears a purple dress with sparkly wings and carries a wand.



Fleshcreep

Fleshcreep is the Giant's assistant. There is thunder and a green light when he is about to appear on stage and the audience may boo when he comes out. He wears an all black outfit, with a top hat.



Prince George

Prince George is friends with Jack Trott and is secretly in love with her. Prince George wants to help Jack rescue the village from the Giant, he wears a white shirt, and blue tunic.



Jack Trott

Jack is the heroine of our story, she is the sister of Simon Trott, and daughter of Dame Trott and she wants to save the village from the Giant. Jack wears a brown tunic with a white shirt, and black boots.



The King

The King is the father of Prince George, he is very protective of his son and doesn't approve of him befriending the villagers. He wears a golden outfit and a crown.



THE CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

Dame Trott

Dame Trott is Jack and Simon's mother, and she lives and works on the farm and owns the village dairy. She also has a cow called Daisy. She is larger than life and wear lots of different outfits throughout the show.



Simon Trott

Simon is a a bumbling and lovable comic character, he is the son of Dame Trott and brother to Jack and lives with them on the farm. He wears a yellow and black checked shirt, dungarees and a straw hat.



The Giant

The Giant is Fleshcreep's master and you will hear his voice throughout the show. He is portrayed by a tall puppet.



The Ensemble

These characters wear different outfits throughout the show for various scenes and dances, they are in the background for most of the show.





DURING THE SHOW

During the performance, the lights may get darker or lighter, there will be music and songs, and the performers may speak to and involve the audience. Occasionally throughout the performance the audience may clap and cheer for the performers, this is how the audience thanks the performers. You can join in if you wish.

Pantomimes often involve the audience in their jokes and the cast may also come into the auditorium to interact with the audience members, they will not interact with you if you are not interested, so there is no need to feel as though you have to.

AFTER THE SHOW

After the performers leave the stage, it is time for everyone to leave the theatre. This will be noisy and busy because everyone will still be excited about seeing the show.
You can stay in your seat until other audience members have left if you'd prefer to leave the theatre at a quieter time.



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW!

If you have any feedback on our accessible performances, this guide, or would like to discuss anything with us, please feel free to reach out at carriageworks@leeds.gov.uk